

Dad had 'goods' on FBI spying, Boggs son says

By SAM HANNA

States-Item bureau

WASHINGTON — The FBI once supplied the late U.S. Rep. Hale Boggs of New Orleans with dossiers on the political connections and personal habits of critics of the Warren Commission report, including an obscene photograph of one of the critics, Boggs' son said today.

Thomas Boggs, a Washington lawyer, said his father withheld much of the information in his possession when he made two speeches strongly critical of the FBI in 1971. He said his father wished to protect sources and possibly innocent victims.

He said the FBI first supplied his father with dossiers on "six or seven

authors" about 1968. The authors had all written books critical of the Warren Commission and its investigation of the assassination of President Kennedy.

Boggs was a member of the Warren Commission.

The FBI action was apparently intended to allay concern about the rash of publications claiming the commission had failed to follow up leads that allegedly would have shown Kennedy had been killed as a result of a conspiracy, not by a lone gunman.

Thomas Boggs said most of the information dealt with left-wing connections of the authors over a period of years. In two cases, however, he said the dossiers were far more complete and included material concerning the individuals' personal lives.

In the case of one author, Thomas Boggs said, there were several copies of a photograph showing the individual committing "an unnatural sex act." He said the implication was that the photograph had been taken by some police agency either surreptitiously or through a setup.

He said his father, who was then majority leader of the House of Repre-

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sentatives, kept the material for about six months before coming to the conclusion that if the FBI kept files on these authors, it must also be building up dossiers on members of Congress and other prominent officials.

In April, 1971, Boggs made a brief speech on the House floor accusing the FBI of "Gestapo tactics" and alleging it had tapped his telephone.

The following October, Boggs made a much longer speech denouncing alleged widespread domestic surveillance of non-criminals by the FBI, but

was strongly criticized for failure to document most of his allegations, particularly the wiretapping charge.

Thomas Boggs said his father did not feel at the time it would be appropriate to disclose his sources or name the people who had been objects of the surveillance.

The elder Boggs' allegations at the time have been largely confirmed in a series of disclosures following the announcement last year by then Atty. Gen. William B. Saxbe that the FBI had indeed kept files on at least some members of Congress and other public figures.